

Edwards, Timothy

From: Shannon Bates [sbates@dfw.conleyrose.com]
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To: Edwards, Timothy
Subject: Application Serial No. 09/783,158

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For: Downlink Telemetry System

Examiner Edwards,

As you suggested, I am submitting for your consideration the following proposed amendments and comments regarding claim 74 and claim 76 of the above-referenced application in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,513,606 to *Krueger*. Since email does not always show textual features, the amendments are indicated by showing additions in all capital letters and deletions using double brackets.

74. (Amended) A method for transmitting a computer command to A SURFACE TRANSMITTER THAT generates downlink instruction signals to control a directional drilling operation at a drilling site wherein the computer command is transmitted from a location remote from the drilling site.

76. (Amended) A method for automatically drilling a well borehole at a drilling site using bi-directional downlink and uplink signaling wherein the computer commands [[to generate downlink signaling]] are transmitted either locally from the drilling site or from a location remote from the drilling site TO A SURFACE TRANSMITTER THAT GENERATES DOWNLINK SIGNALING.

The Krueger reference teaches that EITHER a surface controller 340 or a remote controller communicates DIRECTLY with a downhole controller 230 in the drilling assembly. In contrast, amended claim 74 and amended claim 76 each recite a method comprising transmitting a computer command from a location remote from the drilling site to a SURFACE TRANSMITTER that generates downlink signaling. Thus, in the claimed invention, a computer is used to send commands to a surface transmitter that then generates downlink instruction signals, whereas the Krueger reference teaches that a surface or remote controller sends commands directly to a downhole controller. Therefore, amended claim 74 and amended claim 76 are patentably distinguishable over the Krueger reference.

An Examiner's Amendment to enter the foregoing claim amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any remaining issues, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

10/13/04

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication by return email.

Respectfully submitted,

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